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RESOURCES FOR LAND-USE PROGRAMMING IN THE WEST AND NORTHEAST

Steven E. Daniels* and Stefan Goetz

ABSTRACT:

Changing land-use patterns is a public policy issue across the nation. This seminar presents innovative work going in two very different regions of the country: the West and the Northeast. The Western Rural Development Center has developed "Western by Design," an extensive tool kit for promoting discussion about community growth and change. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development has conducted two workshops on land use, one for researchers and one for Extension personnel. This seminar will showcase the common aspects of these activities that are occurring in very different geographic regions in order to clarify the broader issues about Extension programming around land-use change.

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IDENTIFYING PROGRAM PRIORITIES USING A STATEWIDE FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SURVEY

Gregory Davis*, Jerold R. Thomas and Jeff Sharp

ABSTRACT:

Understanding the needs of clientele ensures that programming is relevant and useful. To design programming that can make an impact, in 2001 a team comprised of individuals in the areas of sociology, agricultural communications, and extension developed a survey to determine knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors with respect to potentially contentious food, agricultural, and environmental issues. To allow for comparisons between metro, nonmetro, and five Extension districts, 7,976 residents of the state were surveyed in the summer of 2002. Using Dillman's Tailored Design Method yielded a response rate of 56.4 percent. Analysis of respondent characteristics indicated the sample was representative of the state population except for: number of renters, respondents aged 18-24 years, and number of African Americans. Results show nearly three-quarters of respondents have concerns over the development of large-scale poultry and livestock production facilities; nearly three-quarters believe such facilities pose a serious threat to water and stream quality; more than one-half believe there is a need for increased regulation of such facilities to protect the environment; nearly 40% believe that food is not as safe today as it was ten years ago and that organic foods are safer than conventionally produced food. Extension educators will be able to use the research information generated to assist with their program planning and development.

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BI-NATIONAL PROGRAM POSTER TO PROTECT LAKE SUPERIOR

Mike Kroenke*

ABSTRACT:

The University of Wisconsin-Extension Lake Superior Basin Educator for Natural Resources was asked to help design a poster to help promote components of the Bi-National Program in helping to protect Lake Superior. A poster was developed in partnership with the US Co-Chair of the Bi-National Program, Wisconsin DNR Bi-National Program Liaison, and a representative of the Whittlesey Creek US Fish and Wildlife Service. The UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center was commissioned to help design and fabricate the three-panel poster display. Once completed, the colorful and issue-based poster was immediately well received by the Bi-National Program and educators around the Lake Superior Basin. The poster has been shown at multiple conferences, meetings and government buildings throughout the Lake Superior Basin. Additional copies were developed and are now being highlighted in the three states and Canada surrounding the lake. A greater awareness of the unique resource of Lake Superior and actions needed to protect the lake is taking place throughout the Lake Superior Basin as a result of these full-color and eye-catching posters. UW-Extension has received increased recognition for developing a quality educational tool and working in cooperation with partners around Lake Superior to accomplish this task.

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SPECIAL DESIGNATION OF LAKE SUPERIOR-FOUR YEARS OF CONSENSUS BUILDING BY A WISCONSIN DNR MULTI-INTEREST TASK FORCE LEAD BY UW-EXTENSION

Mike Kroenke*

ABSTRACT:

Lake Superior is considered a world-class resource water. It consists of 10% of the surface freshwater of the world. The International Joint Commission of the three U.S. states and Canada determined in 1990 that special protection measures were required to safeguard this valuable resource for future generations. The Bi-National Program was established in 1991 and a 'special designation' was promoted to help lay the foundation for international cooperation to protect the lake. Although Minnesota and Michigan were able to create a special designation in the late 1990s, Wisconsin was tied up with threatened litigation between the environmental, tribal and industrial interest groups. Then Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources George Meyer appointed a 15 member 'Special Designation' Task Force made up of these various interest groups to try to reach consensus on this issue. The UW-Extension Lake Superior Basin Educator for Natural Resources was asked to facilitate this group and to help lead the group in reaching consensus. After four years and over 30 meetings, many of which were highly contentious, consensus was reached. The recommendations on critical pollutant controls and watershed health are now working their way through the rule-making process. The consensus of this group is now assisting policy makers in formulating rules that will further protect and restore one of the most significant freshwater bodies in the world. Extension assumed the role of neutral education, facilitation and leadership and was instrumental in helping these diverse interests reach an understanding on this very contentious issue.

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RANGE STEWARDSHIP RIDES BUILD COMMON GROUND IN LEMHI COUNTY, IDAHO

Shannon Williams*

ABSTRACT:

Lemhi County is 92% federal and state owned ground. When a county has this much federal ground, it is necessary for private citizens and federal land managers to work closely together for the good of the county and land. Many times, decisions and challenges are best addressed "on the ground" rather than in an office. The Lemhi County Extension office, Lemhi Soil & Water Conservation District and Lemhi County Cattle & Horse Growers Association have a history of successful stewardship rides. In 2000, the range ride focused on the damage of the Clear Creek Fires. Permittee, Dale Edwards, had been told that he would loose the use of his allotment that had been burned for two years. With bringing together range conservationist, range specialist and ranchers, a decision was made to alter the current grazing plan rather than force non-use. In 2001, a riparian management area was showcased. Before and after pictures showcased the improved ecosystem when the permittee and Forest Service worked together. In 2002, the range ride followed part of the Lewis & Clark trail. There are areas of the Patte Creek allotment where recreation and grazing are in competition. Federal land managers from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, range conservationist with Idaho Department of Agriculture, and Lemhi Cattle & Horse Grower members discussed movement of fences, off-site waters, and alternative grazing plans. As a result of the ride, many of the ideas are now being planned for the 2003-grazing season.

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